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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Ryouichi KOGA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3751

Appln. No. : 10/554,624
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/097125)

Examiner: E. P. Yokay

I.A. Filed : April 27, 2004

Confirmation No. : 7272

For : NOZZLE DEVICE AND HYGIENIC WASHING DEVICE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed on May 8, 2009 and January 27, 2006, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Office Action (Notification of Reason for Refusal) dated May 26, 2009 with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No.2003-124454, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) JP 2002-102809 A, along with an English language Abstract and an English language partial translation thereof;
- (2) JP 2001-90154 A, along with an English language Abstract and an English language partial translation thereof;
- (3) JP 2003-119869 A, along with an English language partial translation thereof;
- (4) JP 59-102033 A, along with an English language partial translation thereof;
- (5) JP 2001-90155 A;
- (6) JP 57-172048 A, along with an English language partial translation thereof; and

(7) JP 2001-348940 A.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicants further bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Office Action dated May 26, 2009, with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-124455 in which the following document were cited:

- (8) JP 10-90078 A, along with an English language partial translation thereof;
- (9) JP 4-73078 U;
- (10) JP 61-126239 A, along with an English language partial translation thereof; and
- (11) JP 58-140278 U, along with an English language partial translation thereof.

Further, above document nos. (3), (4), (6) and (7) were also cited in the above-mentioned Foreign Official Action.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicants further bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Office Action dated May 26, 2009, with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-271508 in which the following document were cited:

- (12) JP 1-180573 U, along with an English language partial translation thereof;
- (13) JP 2000-96679 A, along with an English language partial translation thereof;
- (14) JP 5-118075 A, along with an English language Abstract thereof;
- (15) JP 2002-285619 A, along with an English language Abstract thereof; and
- (16) WO 97/03255 A1, and patent family member US 5,970,528.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Office Action.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), a copy of the U.S. patent publication is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

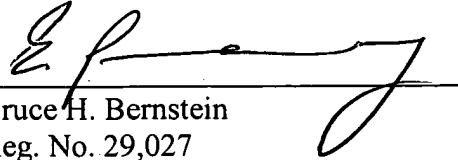
Applicants note that above-noted documents (3), (5) – (9), (12) and (13) were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 27, 2006, and thus, only copies of the noted English language partial translations of documents (3), (6), (8), (12) and (13) are provided herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted documents (1) –(2), (4), (10), (11), (14), (15) and (16), English language Abstracts of documents (1), (2), (4), (14) and (15), and English language partial translations of documents (1), (2), (10) and (11), are attached hereto, and all of the attached documents are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the three Japanese Office Action are also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to the issuance of a Non-Final Office Action on the merits, but before the issuance of a Final Office Action on the merits. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), Applicants hereby certify that each new item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from an foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. Thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryouichi KOGA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line.

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August 6, 2009
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